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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/588,900	Applicant(s) IWASAKI, KYOUJI	
	Examiner JAMES J. WILCOX	Art Unit 2169	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 August 2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>08/09/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-16 are pending in this application.

Specification

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(h)(5) because Figures 4, 5, 8(b) and 9(b) show(s) modified forms of construction in the same view. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because they are directed to non-statutory subject matter.

With respect to claim 15, file management program executable by a computer as stated in the specification ([0030]) constitutes non-statutory subject matter since no requisite functionality is present to satisfy the practical application requirement. Claim 15 lacks the necessary physical articles or objects to constitute a machine or manufacture with the meaning of 35 U.S.C 101. It is clearly not a series of steps or acts to be a process nor is a combination of chemical compounds to be a composition of matter. As such claim 15 fails to fall within a statutory category. It is, at best, functional descriptive material per se. Descriptive material can be characterized as either "functional descriptive material" or "nonfunctional descriptive material." Both types of "descriptive material" are nonstatutory when claimed as descriptive material per se, 33 F.3d at 1360, 31 USPQ 2d at 1759. Functional descriptive material includes data structures and computer programs which impart functionality when employed as a computer component. Functional descriptive material which includes computer program

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products per se is nonstatutory and so claim 15 is not statutory, directed to software per se, lacking storage which enables any underlying functionality to occur.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-2, 10, and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen-Levy et al (US Patent No: 5,355,497 A) hereinafter "Cohen-Levy," and further in view of Schirmer et al (US Patent No: 6,768,997 B2) hereinafter "Schirmer."

With respect to claim 1, Cohen-Levy discloses "An information processing apparatus comprising:

a save screen display controlling section for displaying on a display section a save screen for saving a file to a predetermined saving section; (FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify)

a first condition specifying section for specifying a condition to be assigned to the file via the save screen displayed on the display section; (FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify)

a save processing section for assigning each condition assigned by the first condition specifying section to path information of the file and for saving the file to the

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saving section; (FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify; Column 22, Lines 10-15, the path window displays the path the user has traversed through the real world hierarchical file structure to reach the current level)

a seek screen display controlling section for displaying on the display section a seek screen for seeking and displaying the file saved to the saving section; (FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open)

a second condition specifying section for specifying a condition of the file as a seek objective via the seek screen displayed on the display section; (FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open)

a seek processing section for recognizing the path information of the file saved to the saving section, as such a condition set as allowing a selection sequence to be changeable and as having each condition set to an arbitrary selection item, ((FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open; Column 22, Lines 10-15, the path window displays the path the user has traversed through the real world hierarchical file structure to reach the current level)

and a result display controlling section for displaying on the display section the objective file as a seek result by the seek processing section. (FIG 7 shows the

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Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open)

Cohen-Levy does not explicitly disclose "the seek processing section for seeking for an objective file corresponding to a calculation result of the condition set based on a condition specified by the second condition specifying section."

However, Schirmer discloses "search parameters may be ANDed together," (Column 5, Lines 59-60).

Cohen-Levy and Schirmer are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor involving graphical user interfaces.

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Cohen-Levy and Schirmer before him or her, to modify the teachings of Cohen-Levy by adding a search parameters that can be ANDed together as taught by Schirmer. The motivation for doing so would enable a user to use logical operators (e.g. AND) to represent relationship to combine search terms together to make a calculated result (See Column 1). The cited additional element would not interfere with the functionality of steps previously claimed and would perform the same function. Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Cohen-Levy with Schirmer to obtain the invention as specified in the instant claim(s).

With respect to claim 2, the combination of Cohen-Levy and Schirmer discloses
“The information processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the save screen is provided with a first keyword-only operation element for specifying as a condition a keyword arbitrarily set by a user, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify; Column 11, Lines 64-67, the keywords button allows the user to retrieve documents based on the keywords that have been previously entered concerning the document).

wherein the seek screen is provided with a second keyword-only operation element for specifying as a condition a keyword corresponding to the first keyword-only operation element displayed on the save screen, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify; FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open; Column 11, Lines 64-67, the keywords button allows the user to retrieve documents based on the keywords that have been previously entered concerning the document)

wherein the save processing section assigns as a condition a keyword registered in the first keyword-only operation element, specified via the first condition specifying section, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify; FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify; Column 11, Lines 64-67, the keywords button allows the user to retrieve documents based on the keywords that have been

previously entered concerning the document)

to the path information of the file, and saves the file to the saving section,
(Cohen-Levy, Column 22, Lines 10-15, the path window displays the path the user has
traversed through the real world hierarchical file structure to reach the current level)

and wherein the seek processing section seeks the objective file corresponding
to the computation result of the condition set, (Cohen-Levy, Schirmer, Column 5, Lines
59-60).

based on a keyword as a condition registered in the second keyword-only
operation element, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a
document location that the user can specify; Column 11, Lines 64-67, the keywords
button allows the user to retrieve documents based on the keywords that have been
previously entered concerning the document).

specified via the second condition specifying section.” (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows
the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id,
document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open)

With respect to claim 10, the combination of Cohen-Levy and Schirmer discloses
“The information processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the save screen is provided with a first type-only operation element for
specifying a type of the file as a condition, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 3A shows a save screen
on a display with a document location that the user can specify)

wherein the seek screen is provided with a second type-only operation element

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for specifying as a condition a type corresponding to the first type-only operation element displayed on the save screen, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify; FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open)

wherein the save processing section identifies as a condition an extension registered in the path information of the file based on a type of the file registered in the first type-only operation element, (Cohen-Levy, Column 22, Lines 10-15, the path window displays the path the user has traversed through the real world hierarchical file structure to reach the current level; FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify; Column 22, Lines 10-15, the path window displays the path the user has traversed through the real world hierarchical file structure to reach the current level)

specified via the first condition specifying section, and saves the file to the saving section, and wherein the seek processing section seeks the objective file with reference to the extension registered in the path information of the file, (Cohen-Levy, Column 22, Lines 10-15, the path window displays the path the user has traversed through the real world hierarchical file structure to reach the current level; FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open)

based on a type of the file as a condition registered in the second type-only operation element, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the

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user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open)

specified via the second condition specifying section; (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open)

With respect to claim 13, the combination of Cohen-Levy and Schirmer discloses "The information processing apparatus according to any one-of claim 1,

handles each of sent and received emails as an independent file, saves an email file to the saving section, (Carter, Column 4, Lines 47-48, Figure 4, attach button)

and includes an email screen display controlling section for displaying on the display section an email screen for seeking and displaying the email file saved to the saving section, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open; Carter, Column 4, Lines 47-48, Figure 4, attach button)

wherein the save processing section assigns each condition specified for the email file by the first condition specifying section, (Carter, Column 4, Lines 47-48, Figure 4, attach button; Column 3, Line 2, Save button; 700, Figure 7, display; FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open)

to the path information of the email file via the email screen displayed on the display section, (Cohen-Levy, Column 22, Lines 10-15, the path window displays the

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path the user has traversed through the real world hierarchical file structure to reach the current level)

and saves the email file to the saving section (Carter, Column 4, Lines 47-48, Figure 4, attach button; Column 3, Line 2, Save button; 700, Figure 7, display)

and wherein the seek processing section seeks an objective email file corresponding to a calculation result of a condition set via the email screen displayed on the display section, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open which are conditions)

based on a condition specified by the second condition specifying section.
(Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open which are conditions)

With respect to claim 14, Cohen-Levy discloses "A file management method comprising the steps of:

controlling and displaying on a display section a save screen for saving a file to a predetermined saving section; (Cohen-Levy, FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify)

specifying a first condition to be assigned to the file via the save screen displayed on the display section; (Cohen-Levy, FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify; FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display

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that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open which correspond as conditions)

assigning each condition specified at the first condition specifying step to path information of the file and saving the file to the saving section; (Cohen-Levy, Column 22, Lines 10-15, the path window displays the path the user has traversed through the real world hierarchical file structure to reach the current level; FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open which correspond as conditions)

controlling and displaying on the display section a seek screen for seeking and displaying " the file saved to the saving section; (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open)

specifying a second condition of the file as a seek objective via the seek screen displayed on the display section; (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open which correspond as conditions)

recognizing the path information of the file saved to the saving section, (Cohen-Levy, Column 22, Lines 10-15, the path window displays the path the user has traversed through the real world hierarchical file structure to reach the current level)

as such a condition set as allowing a selection sequence to be changeable and as having each condition set to an arbitrary selection item, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows

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the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open)

and seeking an objective file corresponding to a calculation result of the condition set based on a condition specified at the second condition specifying step; (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open)

and controlling and displaying on the display section the objective file as a seek result at the seek processing step. (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open)

With respect to claim 15, Cohen-Levy discloses “A file management program executable by a computer, comprising the steps of:

controlling and displaying on a display section a save screen for saving a file to a predetermined saving section; (Cohen-Levy, FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify)

specifying a first condition to be assigned to the file via the save screen displayed on the display section; (Cohen-Levy, FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify; FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open which correspond to conditions)

assigning each condition specified in the first condition specifying process to path information of the file and saving the file to the saving section; (Cohen-Levy, FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify; FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open which correspond to conditions)

controlling and displaying on the display section a screen for seeking and displaying the file saved to the saving section; (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open)

specifying a second condition of the file as a seek objective via the seek screen displayed on the display section; (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open; which correspond to conditions)

recognizing the path information of the file saved to the saving section, (Cohen-Levy, Column 22, Lines 10-15, the path window displays the path the user has traversed through the real world hierarchical file structure to reach the current level)

as such a condition set as allowing a selection sequence to be changeable and as having each condition set to an arbitrary selection item, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open, which correspond to conditions)

and seeking an objective file corresponding to a calculation result of the condition set based on a condition specified in the second condition specifying process; (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open which correspond to conditions)

and controlling and displaying on the display section the objective file as a seek result in the seek process. (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open)

7. Claims 3-6, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen-Levy and Schirmer as applied to claims 1-2, 10, and 13-15 above, and further in view of Suzuoka et al (US Patent No: 5,933,832 A) hereinafter "Suzuoka."

With respect to claim 3, the combination of Cohen-Levy and Schirmer discloses "The information processing apparatus according to claim 2,

wherein the first keyword-only operation element and the second keyword-only operation keyword both have such a fixed keyword registered therein, as uninfluenced by a time factor; (Cohen-Levy, Column 11, Lines 64-67, the keywords button allows the user to retrieve documents based on the keywords that have been previously entered concerning the document; Schirmer, Column 1, Lines 11-14, a graphical user interface that enables a user to selectively position tiles corresponding to searchable fields where relative positions of the tiles represent logic operations between the searchable fields)

Cohen-Levy and Schirmer does not explicitly disclose “such a movable keyword registered therein, as influenced by a time factor.

However, Suzuoka discloses “a target update time range in addition to a retrieval condition using a keyword,” (Column 9, Lines 7-8).

Cohen-Levy, Schirmer and Suzuoka are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor involving file management systems.

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to in the art, having the teachings of Cohen-Levy, Schirmer and Suzouka before him or her, to modify the teachings of Cohen-Levy, Schirmer by adding a update times associated with keywords as taught by Suzouka. The motivation for doing so would enable a user to perform database retrieval in response to a retrieval request for collecting corresponding data to prepare a database under a condition that an update frequency range (see Abstract). The cited additional element would not interfere with the functionality of steps previously claimed and would perform the same function. Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Cohen-Levy, Schirmer with Suzuoka to obtain the invention as specified in the instant claim(s).

With respect to claim 4, the combination of Cohen-Levy and Schirmer discloses

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“The information processing apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the save screen is provided with a first for specifying as a condition, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify; FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open which correspond as conditions)

seek screen, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify; FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open)

save processing section, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify) to the path information of the file, (Cohen-Levy, Column 22, Lines 10-15, the path window displays the path the user has traversed through the real world hierarchical file structure to reach the current level)

and saves the file to the saving section, and wherein the seek processing section seeks the objective file corresponding to the calculation result of the condition set, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open).

Cohen-Levy and Schirmer does not explicitly disclose “management time-only operation element.”

However, Suzuoka discloses “a target update time range in addition to a retrieval condition using a keyword,” (Column 9, Lines 7-8).

Cohen-Levy, Schirmer and Suzuoka are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor involving file management systems.

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to in the art, having the teachings of Cohen-Levy, Schirmer and Suzouka before him or her, to modify the teachings of Cohen-Levy, Schirmer by adding a update times associated with keywords as taught by Suzouka. The motivation for doing so would enable a user to perform database retrieval in response to a retrieval request for collecting corresponding data to prepare a database under a condition that an update frequency range (see Abstract). The cited additional element would not interfere with the functionality of steps previously claimed and would perform the same function. Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Cohen-Levy, Schirmer with Suzuoka to obtain the invention as specified in the instant claim(s).

With respect to claim 5, the combination of Cohen-Levy and Schirmer does not explicitly disclose “The information processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the first management time-only operation element and the second management time-only operation element are respectively configured with such a plurality of time divisions

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as arranged in parallel and as specifying a range of the management time.

However, Suzuoka discloses “a target update time range in addition to a retrieval condition using a keyword,” (Column 9, Lines 7-8).

Cohen-Levy, Schirmer and Suzuoka are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor involving file management systems.

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to in the art, having the teachings of Cohen-Levy, Schirmer and Suzouka before him or her, to modify the teachings of Cohen-Levy, Schirmer by adding a update times associated with keywords as taught by Suzouka. The motivation for doing so would enable a user to perform database retrieval in response to a retrieval request for collecting corresponding data to prepare a database under a condition that an update frequency range (see Abstract). The cited additional element would not interfere with the functionality of steps previously claimed and would perform the same function. Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Cohen-Levy, Schirmer with Suzuoka to obtain the invention as specified in the instant claim(s).

With respect to claim 6, the combination of Cohen-Levy, Schirmer, and Suzuoka discloses “The information processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the management time is defined as an update time of the file,” (Suzuoka;

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Column 9, Lines 7-8).

With respect to claim 16, the combination of Cohen-Levy and Schirmer discloses
“The information processing apparatus according to claim 2,

wherein the save screen is provided with a first management time-only operation element for specifying as a condition a management time of the file, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify; FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open which correspond as conditions; Suzuoka; Column 9, Lines 7-8)

wherein the seek screen displayed on the save screen, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify; FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open which correspond to conditions)

wherein the save processing section, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open; Suzuoka; Column 9, Lines 7-8)

to the path information of the file, (Cohen-Levy, Column 22, Lines 10-15, the path window displays the path the user has traversed through the real world hierarchical file

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structure to reach the current level)

and saves the file to the saving section, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify)

and wherein the seek processing section seeks the objective file corresponding to the calculation result of the condition set, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open which correspond to conditions)

However, Cohen-Levy also discloses in "FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open which correspond to conditions."

Cohen-Levy, and Shirmer do not explicitly disclose "a management time-only operation element for specifying as a condition."

However, Suzuoka discloses "a target update time range in addition to a retrieval condition using a keyword," (Column 9, Lines 7-8).

Cohen-Levy, Schirmer and Suzuoka are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor involving file management systems.

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At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Cohen-Levy, Schirmer and Suzouka before him or her, to modify the teachings of Cohen-Levy, Schirmer by adding a update times associated with keywords as taught by Suzouka. The motivation for doing so would enable a user to perform database retrieval in response to a retrieval request for collecting corresponding data to prepare a database under a condition that an update frequency range (see Abstract). The cited additional element would not interfere with the functionality of steps previously claimed and would perform the same function. Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Cohen-Levy, Schirmer with Suzuoka to obtain the invention as specified in the instant claim(s).

8. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen-Levy, Schirmer, and Suzuoka as applied to claims 1-2, 10, and 13-15 above, and further in view of Meyn et al (US Patent No: 5,859,623 A) hereinafter "Meyn."

With respect to claim 7, the combination of Cohen-Levy, Schirmer, and Suzuoka discloses "The information processing apparatus according to claim 4,

and saves the file to the saving section, (Cohen-Levy, FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify)

regardless of the management time as a condition registered in the second management time-only operation element, specified via the second condition specifying section. (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to

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search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open; Suzuoka, Column 9, Lines 7-8).

Cohen-Levy, Schirmer, and Suzuoka do not explicitly disclose “wherein the save screen is provided with a deselection-only operation element for specifying a condition for displaying all files as the seek result regardless of specification of the management time by the first management time-only operation element, wherein the save processing section assigns as a condition a predetermined character string to the path information of the file according to selection of the deselection-only operation element via the first condition specifying section nor and wherein the seek processing section seeks as the objective file a file having the path information assigned with the character string,”

However, Meyn discloses “in Figure 5, select all button, deselect all button, save button and a different directory may be selected by double-clicking the name of the desired directory. The desired directory may be selected and the Goto button clicked on. The path including the directory will appear at the top of the list box. To move up the parent directory, the \string in the list box may be double clicked which was interpreted as the character string.

Cohen-Levy, Schirmer, Suzuoka and Meyn are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor involving graphical user interfaces.

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Cohen-Levy, Schirmer, Suzuoka and Meyn before him or her, to modify the teachings of Cohen-Levy, Schirmer, Suzuoka by adding a select all button and deselect button as taught by Meyn. The motivation for doing so would enable a user to select all items that they are interested and undo a selection of items. The cited additional element would not interfere with the functionality of steps previously claimed and would perform the same function. Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Cohen-Levy, Schirmer, Suzuoka with Meyn to obtain the invention as specified in the instant claim(s).

With respect to claim 8, the combination of Cohen-Levy and Schirmer discloses "The information processing apparatus according to claim 4,

wherein the save processing section assigns as a condition a predetermined character string to the path information of the file, (Column 22, Lines 10-15, the path window displays the path the user has traversed through the real world hierarchical file structure to reach the current level; FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open; Meyn, Figure 5, "in Figure 5, select all button, deselect all button, save button and a different directory may be selected by double-clicking the name of the desired directory. The desired directory may be selected and the Goto button clicked on. The path including the directory will appear at the top of the list box. To move up the parent directory, the \string in the list box may be

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double clicked which was interpreted as the character string)

and saves the file to the saving section, and wherein the seek processing section excludes the file having the path information assigned with the character string from seek candidates regardless of the management time as a condition registered in the second management time-only operation element, specified via the second condition specifying section. (FIG 3A shows a save screen on a display with a document location that the user can specify; Column 22, Lines 10-15, the path window displays the path the user has traversed through the real world hierarchical file structure to reach the current level; FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open; Meyn, Figure 5, "in Figure 5, select all button, deselect all button, save button and a different directory may be selected by double-clicking the name of the desired directory. The desired directory may be selected and the Goto button clicked on. The path including the directory will appear at the top of the list box. To move up the parent directory, the \string in the list box may be double clicked which was interpreted as the character string)

Cohen-Levy, Schirmer, and Suzuoka do not explicitly disclose "wherein the save screen is provided with a non-display-only operation element for specifying a condition for preventing display of a file as the seek result regardless of specification of the management time by the first management time-only operation element."

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However, Meyn discloses “in Figure 5, a save button and a hide button.”

Cohen-Levy, Schirmer, Suzuoka and Meyn are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor involving graphical user interfaces.

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Cohen-Levy, Schirmer, Suzuoka and Meyn before him or her, to modify the teachings of Cohen-Levy, Schirmer, Suzuoka by adding a hide button as taught by Meyn. The motivation for doing so would enable a user to hide information that is associated with the graphical user interface. The cited additional element would not interfere with the functionality of steps previously claimed and would perform the same function. Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Cohen-Levy, Schirmer, Suzuoka with Meyn to obtain the invention as specified in the instant claim(s).

With respect to claim 9, the combination of Cohen-Levy, Schirmer, Suzuoka, and Meyn discloses “The information processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the seek screen is provided with a non-display reset operation element for redisplaying the file excluded by the seek processing section from the seek candidates based on the character string assigned to the path information,” (Cohen-Levy, Column 22, Lines 10-15, the path window displays the path the user has traversed through the real world hierarchical file structure to reach the current level; FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve

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Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open, Meyn, Figure 6, Hide Button is the non-display reset operation; Figure 5, "in Figure 5, select all button, deselect all button, save button and a different directory may be selected by double-clicking the name of the desired directory. The desired directory may be selected and the Goto button clicked on. The path including the directory will appear at the top of the list box. To move up the parent directory, the \string in the list box may be double clicked which was interpreted as the character string)

9. Claims 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cohen-Levy and Schirmer as applied to claims 1-2, 10, and 13-15 above, and further in view of Carter et al (US Patent No: 6,859,213 B1) hereinafter "Carter."

With respect to claim 11, the combination of Cohen-Levy and Schirmer discloses "The information processing apparatus according to claim 1,

path information of the first file, (Cohen-Levy, Column 22, Lines 10-15, the path window displays the path the user has traversed through the real world hierarchical file structure to reach the current level)

and saves the first file to the saving section while saving the second file to a specific saving area in the saving section.

Cohen-Levy and Schirmer does not explicitly disclose "wherein the save

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processing section assigns information indicating existence of a second file to be attached.”

However, Carter discloses “selecting attachments for an email message,” (Column 4, Lines 47-48) and an attach button in Figure 4.

Cohen-Levy, Schirmer, and Carter are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor involving graphical user interfaces.

At the time of invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Cohen-Levy, Schirmer and Carter before him or her, to modify the teachings of Cohen-Levy, Schirmer, by adding an attach button as taught by Carter. The motivation for doing so would enable a user to attach e-mail messages. The cited additional element would not interfere with the functionality of steps previously claimed and would perform the same function. Therefore it would have been obvious to combine Cohen-Levy, Shirmer, with Carter to obtain the invention as specified in the instant claim(s).

With respect to claim 12, the combination of Cohen-Levy, Schirmer, and Carter discloses “The information processing apparatus according to claim 11,

wherein the seek screen is provided with an attachment-attached file-only operation element for seeking for the first file attached with the second file, (Cohen-

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Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open; Carter, Column 4, Lines 47-48, Figure 4, attach button)

and wherein the seek processing section seeks the first file according to selection of the attachment-attached file-only operation element via the second condition specifying section. (Cohen-Levy, FIG 7 shows the Open/Retrieve Display that lets the user to search for begin date, end date, user id, document location, contact, type of document, keywords, regarding, search, open; Carter, Column 4, Lines 47-48, Figure 4, attach button)

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAMES J. WILCOX whose telephone number is (571)270-3774. The examiner can normally be reached on Days: M-H Times: 6:30 A.M.-6:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tony Mahmoudi can be reached on (571)272-4078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JJW (February 23, 2010)

/Greta L. Robinson/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2169